

teckcominco

November 19, 2003

The Honourable Gary Locke
Office of the Governor
Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Locke:

RE: Lake Roosevelt Discussions between EPA and Teck Cominco Metals Limited

I am writing to clarify our company's position on the concerns raised by the EPA with respect to metals contamination in sediments in the Upper Columbia River and Lake Roosevelt.

The attached letter from Teck Cominco Metals Ltd. CEO David Thompson to the EPA sets out how we propose to deal with the situation. Teck Cominco is willing to enter into an agreement, fully enforceable under the laws of the United States, to fund the analysis and pay for the remediation required.

Teck Cominco Metals operates the Trail metallurgical facility under Canadian laws and permits. The Trail facility is not subject to US environmental regulation. In spite of this fact our American affiliate, Teck Cominco American Incorporated, has offered to fund scientific studies to determine if the presence of metals in sediments pose any actual human health or ecological risks. In that regard, the Department of Health for the State of Washington, in a letter to Steven's County Commissioner, Merrill J. Ott, recently advised that:

"Limited sampling of Lake Roosevelt sand and sediments indicates that metals are present at levels higher than natural background. Additional data regarding the frequency of human use and additional sampling are necessary in order to completely evaluate potential health impacts related to playing at Lake Roosevelt beaches. The US Environmental Protection Agency has begun a process to better understand the health risks associated with metals in sand and sediment. While more investigation is necessary, DOH anticipates that these risks are very low."

Specifically we have offered to:

- fully fund the assessment of human health and ecological risks related to metals contamination;
- conduct additional site investigations to identify appropriate remediation, restoration or mitigation alternatives for identified risks at the Site;

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- involve the State of Washington, the Council and the Tribes in the process of developing the assessment;
 - fund oversight costs incurred by: the EPA, the State of Washington, the Council, the Spokane Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation;
 - reimburse costs already incurred by the EPA in connection with its investigation of the Site;
 - retain the best qualified technical staff available to carry out the work plan;
 - subject work plans and implementation to EPA oversight and approval in accordance with pre-determined schedules with regular reports to the EPA by the technical staff;
 - enter into a standstill agreement with respect to any limitations periods that may affect claims at the Site by the EPA or natural resource trustees; and
 - conduct remediation and/or mitigation for metals contamination attributable to Teck Cominco Metals' operations.

We will continue to attempt to explain our approach to the EPA but we have been informed by the people at Region 10 that they lack the authority to support our approach. We believe that the EPA has failed to grasp the important trans-boundary issues presented by this matter. We have, therefore, raised the jurisdictional issues with the Canadian authorities and invited the Region to reconsider our offer at the highest levels of the agency.

We hope to enlist the State of Washington's support for our proposed alternative to a Superfund designation. We believe that this issue can either deteriorate into a long period of litigation of both a national and international dimension or it can be addressed voluntarily by a cooperative company ready, willing and able to do the right thing.

Yours truly,



Doug Horswill
Senior Vice President
Teck Cominco Metals Ltd.